

PUBLICATIONS.

Chemical and Microscopical Diagnosis.—By FRANCIS CARTER WOOD, M. D., Adjunct Professor of Clinical Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, N. Y.; Pathologist to St. Luke's Hospital, N. Y. D. Appleton & Co., New York and London, 1905. Cloth, \$5.00.

It is unnecessary to emphasize, in the present state of medical knowledge, the importance of microscopical and chemical examinations of the blood, and the secretions and excretions of the body, in the diagnosis of disease. Indeed, this has been so universally appreciated within recent years, that a distinct and increasing demand has been created for works of reference on these and allied subjects. Several such books already occupy honored positions in this literature, and Dr. Wood's book, the subject of this review, is the latest addition to the library of clinical pathology.

This large volume of 745 pages is an excellent testimonial to the industry of the author. Whilst it cannot lay any claims to originality, the systematic arrangement and intelligent treatment of the various subjects is so good that it is certain to appeal both to the specialist and general practitioner. The subject of the blood is very elaborately discussed in some 257 pages. For the most part, the matter at hand has been treated along the accepted traditional lines; nevertheless the author has been careful to present his subject from the most recent points of view. We are, however, very much surprised that he should still retain the antiquated term "polynuclear leukocyte," which is both inaccurate and misleading. No work of a similar character has fallen into our hands which treats with equal fullness the various methods of blood examinations; and those portions devoted to cryoscopy, precipitin reactions, malaria, and the serum-reactions are to be specially commended.

Part II is devoted to the methods used in the examination of gastric contents. Special attention is given to the significance and limitations of findings obtained under different normal and diseased conditions. The succeeding 4 chapters are devoted respectively to the examination of feces, parasites, oral and nasal secretions, and sputum. The chapter on urine is a very complete consideration of the subject. Particular attention has been given to the description of the technical methods involved in the different chemical examinations; and the section devoted to the consideration of drug reactions is a very useful addition. We are still more favorably impressed with the excellent although brief discussion of the different methods utilized in the study of the functional efficiency of the kidneys. The 2 concluding chapters are devoted to study of transudates, exudates, and milk examinations. The last chapter, on milk, is rather disappointing, for the author shows himself a theoretical student rather than a practical worker in the chemistry of milk.

Dr. Wood's book is undoubtedly the most complete book of its kind that has appeared in the English language. Unfortunately, however, many will find the work too highly specialized in some directions for ordinary practical work; but as a work of reference for student and practitioner, it will undoubtedly meet with great favor.

A. J. L.

Studies in General Physiology.—By JACQUES LOEB. 2 Vol. The Decennial Publications of the University of Chicago. Second Series. Volume XV. The University of Chicago Press, 1905.

These volumes will be most welcome to those who desire a collection of Prof. Loeb's brilliant researches in the domain of general physiology. All of his papers on these subjects have been collected and translated into English. At first sight, the material seems rather heterogenous; yet a central idea runs throughout the work, viz., the attempt to control life phenomena and to reduce these to terms of physics and chemistry.

The studies on the movements of animals well illustrate the general point of view taken. Instead of referring these movements to instinct or will, the author has attempted to reduce them to terms of reaction to various stimuli. Among these stimuli are light, gravity, chemical and solid bodies; and the reactions to these are termed, respectively, heliotropism, geotropism, chemotropism and stereotropism—positive when the movement is in the direction of the stimulus, negative when the movement is in the opposite direction. The susceptibility of animals to these various stimuli differs not only among different species, but in the same animal at different stages of its life and under different conditions of nutrition, etc. Prof. Loeb has shown that many movements, believed to be due to will or instinct, are in reality merely blind reactions to external stimuli. Under certain experimental conditions these movements may be of absolutely no value to the animal.

The chapters on artificial parthenogenesis are, perhaps, the most interesting in the collection. The central idea of these experiments is to produce a development of unfertilized eggs by chemical, mechanical or physical agents. The success attending these experiments is well known, the most striking results being obtained by placing the eggs of marine animals in media of high osmotic pressure for a definite period of time.

The books are extremely interesting to all who are dealing with life phenomena, and especially to those who are working in the domain of general physiology. To the physician, however, the problems treated seem rather remote from those that interest him, and the fact that the experiments have been made upon the lower forms of animal life renders the application of the results to the physiology of higher animals rather difficult. Nevertheless the fundamental character of the work will appeal to all who interest themselves in life phenomena.

A. W. H.

Modern Clinical Medicine.—Infectious Diseases.—Translated from "Die Deutsche Klinik" by DR. JULIUS L. SALINGER, and edited by DR. J. C. WILSON. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Price, cloth bound, \$6.00.

This is a very interesting and instructive treatise. Some of the subjects are dealt with in a most comprehensive way by their authors, many of whom are eminent as teachers of internal medicine. But it can hardly be considered as a complete work on the subject, as certain phases are dealt with rather briefly. For instance, the important results obtained by the United States Government Yellow Fever Commission in Cuba are barely mentioned; hardly enough detail of the manner in which the results were obtained being given.

Perforation in enteric fever is mentioned as being an indication for calling in the surgeon.

Practically nothing else is said about it. Thus one of the most important complications of typhoid, upon the early recognition of which by the physician the success of surgical interference will depend, is passed over without consideration of a symptom or a sign.

In the article on cholera the use of antitoxin is mentioned as having been introduced in 1893, but nothing is said of the enormous amount of work done in this field since then by Hoffkine and others.

Much that has been done in recent years in the field of etiology of dysentery and the various strains of the *Thiga bacillus* is omitted.

Some of the chapters give one the impression that they might have been concluded some years ago.

However, the book is most interestingly written, and contains much that is of value.

H. G.

Hall's Physiology.—A Text-Book of Physiology, Normal and Pathological. For students and practitioners of medicine. By WINFIELD S. HALL, Ph. D., M. D. (Leipzig), Professor of Physiology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago; Member of the American Physiological Society; Member of American Association for the